

YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

Title: Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) Next Annual Review Date: 06/08/2012	Type: D. Community Based Services Sub Type: 10. Supervision Number: D.10.19
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References: ACA Standards 2-7132, 2-7134, 2-7135, 2-7137, 2-7143, 2-7154, 2-7155, 2-7156, 2-7158, 2-7215 (Juvenile Probation and Aftercare Services); YS Policy D.10.4 "Community Supervision Classification System"	
STATUS: Approved	
Approved By: Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary	Date of Approval: 06/08/2011

I. AUTHORITY:

Deputy Secretary of Youth Services as contained in La. R.S. 36:405. Deviation from this policy must be approved by the Deputy Secretary.

II. PURPOSE:

To set forth uniform policy and broad procedures regarding the use of electronic monitoring by providing the most appropriate services to youth in the least restrictive environment, always being cognizant of public and youth safety.

III. APPLICABILITY:

Probation and Parole Regional Managers/Juvenile, Probation and Parole Supervisors/Juvenile, and Probation and Parole Officers/Juvenile (PPO/J). Each Regional Manager shall ensure that procedures are in place to comply with the provisions of this policy.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

Home Confinement/House Arrest/Home Incarceration - a legal confinement of an individual to his residence rather than a detention center or secure facility.

Electronic Monitoring Program(EMP) - the use of electronic technology to monitor the movements of a youth.

Passive GPS - Includes radio frequency receiver, tracking unit and a transmitter. The tracking unit is clipped to a waist band or purse while away from home. The transmitter is strapped to the leg of the youth.

Radio Frequency Monitors - Includes radio frequency receiver and a transmitter which is strapped to the leg of the youth.

V. POLICY:

It is the Deputy Secretary's policy that electronic monitoring is used to enhance community supervision as an alternative to removing a youth from his home by allowing him to remain in the community on probation, parole or in custody.

The primary objective of EMP is to provide a graduated sanction for youth on probation, parole or in custody in the least restrictive setting.

The secondary objective of EMP is to provide for the availability of secure beds for more serious and violent youth by placing lower risk youth in the community under close supervision.

VI. PROCEDURES:

- A. Allowing a youth to remain in the community while in custody may pose a risk to public safety. For this reason care must be taken to ensure that youth assigned to EMP are appropriate.

Prior to a youth being placed in EMP, a case staffing/planning must be done to provide for the youth's needs upon returning to or remaining in the community. The service plan shall be updated to include the type of program utilized. Goals shall be clearly defined and must be measurable, reasonable and attainable. Updated goals shall be explained to the youth and his/her parent(s).

It is important for both public safety and the credibility of EMP that there be immediate detection of and response to violations. EMP services should be capable of providing 24-hour monitoring, with the capability of verifying a violation and contacting the PPO/J when a violation occurs.

For home confinement or house arrest, passive GPS and radio frequency units should be utilized.

- B. Non-Compliance

Examples of major non-compliance would include cutting off the band, absconding supervision, or committing a new offense, etc. In the case of a major non-compliance violation, the PPO/J shall attempt to make a phone or personal contact within 24 hours of being notified of the violation to determine the reason for non-compliance. A staffing shall be held in all instances where a major non-compliance infraction has occurred. Depending on the reason for the infraction, recommendations for possible sanctions could range from a verbal warning by the PPO/J, Contempt of Court being filed to recommendations into a more restrictive setting. Documentation of the efforts and resolution/actions must be made in JETS and within 72 hours.

Examples of minor non-compliance would include numerous unexcused curfew infractions, several unexplained curfew violations or consistently being out of range of the unit for brief period of times, etc. In the case of a minor non-compliance violation, recommendations could include a verbal warning by the PPO/J, increased visits, or graduated sanction to a more restrictive program/ setting.

C. Enrollment

Typically, youth enrolled in electronic monitoring begin to show improvement within ninety (90) days; therefore a youth shall not be enrolled in EMP more than ninety (90) days unless a staffing is held to determine the need to remain, or if a more restrictive sanction is warranted.

After the youth has been selected and approved, the PPO/J, or designee, shall add the enrollment information to the appropriate website. The PPO/J shall verify that the home phone does not have privacy manager features, such as party-lines, voice mail, caller ID, call block, call waiting, call forwarding, cordless phones, and answering machines. The PPO/J shall also notify the youth and his/her parent that they must be home for the installation. The PPO/J, or designee shall complete the EMP Enrollment-Removal-Schedule Change Form located in JETS, then send the request to the vendor.

The PPO/J shall explain all the conditions and sanctions of EMP to the youth.

Participants will be required to:

1. Observe the designated curfew;
2. Maintain or seek employment, attend school, and/or attend or obtain required treatment services as directed by the judge or PPO/J;
3. Maintain electrical and compatible telephone services at home;
4. Do not attempt to remove or tamper with the monitoring equipment or telephone;
5. Report any equipment malfunction to the PPO/J immediately;
6. Report in person as directed by the court or PPO/J; and
7. Obey all local, state and federal laws and ordinances.

Youth will be restricted to their residences when not at work, school, training, treatment, or any specific place that is authorized by the Court or PPO/J.